Judicial And Statutory Officers (Remuneration And Allowance) Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 31 August 1988
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Ralph Willis, M.P., Minister for Industrial Relations

Digest of Bill

Purpose

To increase the salary and allowances payable to members of the judiciary and Inter-State Commission.

Background

The Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) was established in 1973 to inquire into, and report on, the remuneration that should be paid to the holders of various positions, including Members of Parliament and the judiciary. In performing its function, the Tribunal is required to take account of the principles laid down by the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

The Judicial and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Allowances) Act 1984 (the Principal Act) provides that National Wage Case Decisions are passed on automatically. Since the last Tribunal Report, salaries have been adjusted to reflect the National Wage Case Decision increases of 10 March 1987 ($10) and 5 February 1988 ($6) and the second tier increase.

In Reports No. 4 and No. 5 of 1987, the Tribunal recommended new levels of salary, expense and travelling allowances for members of the judiciary and the Inter-State Commission. The increases are estimated to cost $1.2 million in 1988–89.

Main Provisions

Clause 3 will amend section 3 of the Principal Act to introduce new rates of salary and allowances from 1 January 1988. For example, the new annual salary of the Chief Justice of the High Court will be $127,107, while Justices of that court will receive $115,539 p.a.
The travelling allowances of Justices of the High Court will be increased by clause 4 which will amend section 4 of the Principal Act. The allowance for a stay in a capital city will be increased from $165 to $190 per night, while that for other places will increase to $120.

The additional annual allowance payable to a Justice of the High Court who does not reside in Canberra will be increased from $11,715 to $12,910 (clause 5 which will amend section 5 of the Principal Act).

The travelling allowance payable to other Commonwealth judges and a number of statutory office holders (e.g. the President of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission) will be increased by clause 6 which will amend section 6 of the Principal Act).

Section 6A of the Principal Act will be amended to increase the travelling allowance payable to members of the Inter-State Commission (clause 7).

A new Schedule, which contains the rate of salary and expenses payable to certain judicial and statutory officers, will be substituted into the Principal Act by clause 8.

For further information, if required, contact the Law and Government Group.

1 November 1988

Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

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